

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 171015Z MAR 76  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4075

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1974

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, SA, PDIP  
SUBJECT: INITIAL CALLS IN RIYADH

1. I RETURNED FROM RIYADH TODAY AFTER MAKING INITIAL CALLS ON FIVE OF ROYAL PRINCES WHO HOLD MINISTERIAL POSITIONS, NAMELY, SULTAN, ABDULLAH, NAYIF, MAJID AND MITIB. FAHD ABSENT THIS WEEK. I WILL PULL MY NOTES TOGETHER AND PROVIDE COMPLETE ACCOUNT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE NOW WHAT AMOUNTS TO AN ADMISSION BY SULTAN THAT TOP SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS ARRANGED DURING SADAT'S VISIT HERE (FEB. 21-24) FOR SADAT'S DENUNCIATION EARLY THIS WEEK OF THE SOVIET-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP TREATY.

2. IN EFFORT TO EVOKE REACTION AS I CALLED ON THE MINISTERS, I TOOK OCCASION TO COMPLIMENT EACH OF THEM ON SAUDI FOREIGN POLICY ACHIEVEMENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE VISIBLE IN RECENT EVENTS IN PDRY AND EGYPT. ALL WERE PLEASED TO HEAR THIS, BUT SULTAN'S REACTION CARRIED SOMETHING ADDITIONAL IN THAT IT WAS CLEAR ADMISSION OF DIRECT SAUDI INVOLVEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY. WHEN I BROUGHT FORWARD CONGRATULATORY FORMULA AT ONE POINT IN

RATHER LONG CONVERSATION WITH HIM, HE SEIZED MY ARM AND SAID, "DO YOU KNOW WHAT WE DID? WE TOOK SADAT OUT INTO  
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THE DESERT FOR 2 1/2 DAYS AND WE HAMMERED OUT THE ARRANGE-

MENTS FOR THE REJECTION OF THE SOVIET TREATY DURING THAT PERIOD. WE KNEW EXACTLY WHEN HE WAS GOING TO DO IT, AND WE HAVE HIM ASSURANCES OF COMPLETE SUPPORT. IT CAME OFF JUST AS PLANNED. WE DID OUR DUTY." HE WENT ON TO GIVE THE UNITED STATES FOR CONCURRING IN THE SAUDI EFFORT TO REACH THE PDRY AND IN ACHIEVING BETTER RELATIONS ITSELF WITH EGYPT. HE WAS ENTIRELY PLEASED ABOUT THESE THINGS. HIS ONLY QUESTION WAS WHETHER WE WOULD ALSO "DO OUR DUTY" IN EGYPT.

3. WHEN I TRIED SAME THEME ON MITIB DURING MY FINAL CALL, HIS REACTION WAS TO AGREE THAT SAUDI POLICIES ARE PAYING OFF, BUT HE ADDED THAT EGYPTIAN EVENTS "WILL COST US A LOT OF MONEY, A WHOLE LOT OF MONEY." HIS AND SULTAN'S COMMENTS TEND TO CONFIRM MY OWN BELIEF THAT FAR MORE THAN THE ANNOUNCED \$300 MILLION FOR "ECONOMIC AID" TO EGYPT FIGURED IN THE ARRANGEMENT.

4. COMMENT: I AM BEGINNING TO ADMIRE SAUDI CAPABILITIES FOR DEALING WITH OTHER ARABS. THEY NOT ONLY HAVE DOUGH, BUT THEY MAKE NICE BREAD WITH IT -- ENRICHED BREAD, OF COURSE. WARMEST REGARDS.

5. DISTRIBUTION IN YOUR DISCRETION.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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